

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A fuel cell system is provided with a fuel cell supplied with air and  
fuel to generate electric power output, a main air-flow passage supplying  
the air to the fuel cell, an air treatment unit located in the main air-flow  
passage, a bypass flow passage connected to the main air-flow passage in  
parallel with the air treatment unit, and a flow-passage change-over valve  
executing a change-over between the main air-flow passage and the bypass  
flow passage and allowing the bypass flow passage to supply the air to the  
fuel cell during start-up operation until a predefined condition is  
10 established.